



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

**13 DECEMBER 2016**

#### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

##### **(U) Los Angeles – Man Accused of Hate Crime in Stabbing Near Mosque**

(U) A man has been arrested on suspicion of committing an anti-Muslim hate crime and another was sought after by authorities in connection with the weekend stabbing of a worshiper near a Southern California mosque. Coming amid a surge in harassment and intimidation of Muslims reported by the FBI, the incident occurred late Saturday night outside the Masjid Al-Rasool mosque in the town of Simi Valley, about 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The confrontation began as a verbal altercation that escalated into a physical fight between the two suspects and the victim. The suspect was booked into the Ventura County jail on felony charges of committing a hate crime and making criminal threats, as well as a misdemeanor charge of disturbing the peace.

SOURCE: 12 December 2016, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) NATIONAL**

##### **(U) Massachusetts – Former Insys Officials Charged in Scheme to Push Its Painkiller**

(U) Boston – Federal prosecutors brought racketeering charges last Thursday against several former executives of Insys Therapeutics, a small Arizona drug company, saying they were part of a scheme that involved aggressive sales of the powerful and highly addictive pain drug fentanyl. “Patient safety is paramount, and prescriptions for these highly addictive drugs, especially fentanyl, which is among the most potent and addictive opioids, should be prescribed without the influence of corporate money,” Carmen M. Ortiz, the United States attorney in Massachusetts, said in a statement. According to the indictment, the six former employees, including the former chief executive, Michael L. Babich, and regional sales directors, offered bribes and kickbacks to pain doctors in various states in exchange for getting them to prescribe more of the company’s product, Subsys, a spray form of fentanyl.

SOURCE: 8 December 2016, [NY Times](#)

##### **(U) New Jersey – Quest Diagnostics Reports 34,000 Customer Accounts Hacked**

(U) Madison – Medical laboratory operator Quest Diagnostics Inc. says a hack of an internet application on its network has exposed the personal health information of about 34,000 people. The company says an unauthorized third party gained access to customer information including names, dates of birth, lab results and in some instances, telephone numbers. The stolen data did not include Social Security numbers, credit card accounts, insurance details or any other financial information. Quest said yesterday it is working with a cybersecurity firm and law enforcement to investigate the breach, while taking steps to prevent similar incidents from recurring. The company said it has notified affected clients by mail and has set up a dedicated number to field questions regarding the breach.

SOURCE: 12 December 2016, [WISN](#)

##### **(U) Texas – \$5 Million Federal Grant to Combat Zika Virus**

(U) Austin – Governor Greg Abbott says Texas has won a \$5 million CDC grant to combat the Zika virus. In a statement yesterday, Abbott said the money was awarded as part of supplemental Zika funding approved by Congress to increase preparedness and response efforts. Word of the grant comes three

days after state health officials confirmed four more cases of Zika in Texas that were likely transmitted by mosquito bites. Abbott said, "this money will be crucial in our efforts to contain and combat further transmission." He said the Texas Health Department has dedicated \$18 million to combating Zika and implementing a state preparedness plan – though counties are being required to cover many Zika-related costs themselves.

SOURCE: 12 December 2016, [CBS Austin](#)

## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Egypt – Man Suspected in Chapel Bombing Had 2014 Run-in with Police**

(U) Cairo – The young man suspected of blowing himself up inside a Cairo chapel during Sunday Mass, killing at least 25 people, had been arrested and beaten by police two years ago after allegedly taking part in a demonstration. Mahmoud Shafiq Mohammed Mustafa would be the latest Egyptian to be radicalized after being subjected to police abuse, a practice that was common for decades and has become rampant after a crackdown on dissent following the military's 2013 ouster of the president. Speaking after a state funeral for the victims, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said the suspect detonated a belt of explosives inside a chapel adjacent to St. Mark's Cathedral, seat of Egypt's ancient Coptic Orthodox Church. The over 100-year-old chapel was packed with worshippers. The dead included more than 20 women and children. Forty-nine others were injured, according to the latest figures released by the Health Ministry.

SOURCE: 12 December 2016, [ABC News](#)

### **(U) Italy – 3 Key ISIL Militants Killed in Syria**

(U) Aviano Air Base – US Defense Secretary Ash Carter says the US has killed three key leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria. Among the dead were two militants believed to be tied to the November 2015 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. Carter announced the killings during an address today to US airmen at a military base in Italy. Carter's spokesman, Peter Cook, said later that the three were killed in an airstrike on 4 December in Raqqa. Cook said the two involved in the Paris attacks, Salah Gourmat and Sammy Djedou, were close associates of ISIL external operations leader Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, who was killed in August 2016. He said the third person, Walid Hamman, had been convicted in absentia in Belgium for a disrupted 2015 planned attack.

SOURCE: 10 December 2016, [AP](#)

## **(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**

### **(U) Mexico – Officials Locate Two Border Tunnels Leading Into US**

(U) Mexico City - Mexican police and soldiers have discovered two tunnels in the border city of Tijuana that lead into California. The tunnels were found in an area of warehouses across from Otay Mesa. Prosecutors said yesterday that one of the tunnels reached to San Diego, California, and the other was unfinished. The Attorney General's Office said the tunnels were apparently used by the Sinaloa drug cartel to move drugs into the United States. It said it found the tunnels after the US consulate in Tijuana determined the tunnels were being reactivated after apparently falling into disuse.

SOURCE: 13 December 2016, [AP](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

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